

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Raffaele DeMarco on December 17, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

on the paragraph starting on page 10, line 18, inserted --or first coupling unit-- before "52" in line 5 of the paragraph; and,
on the paragraph starting on page 10, line 37, inserted --or second coupling units-- before "30" in line 8 of the paragraph;

in the claims:

claim 2, line 4 – added --corner-- after "each", and
line 7 – added --one of-- after "to" and replaced "strut" with --struts--;
claim 17, line 3 – replaced "ease if" with --corner--,
line 8 – added --one of-- after "to", and
line 9 - replaced "strut with --struts--;

claim 21, line 2 – replaced “a connecting” with --the spacer-- and replaced the second occurrence of “the” with --a--,
line 4, replaced the first occurrence of “unit” with --element-- and replaced “further” with --second--,
lines 4-5 – replaced “the length of the” with --a--, and,
line 5 - added a comma after “length” and “plate” and replaced “a” with --the first--; and,
claim 24, line 8 – added --one of-- after “to”,
line 9 - replaced “strut with --struts--,
line 14 - replaced “connecting” with --spacer--, added --of the second coupling element-- after “profile”, and replaced the second occurrence of “the” with --a--,
line 17 – replaced “the length of the” with --a-- and added a comma after “length”, and,
line 18 - added a comma after “plate”.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ernesto Garcia whose telephone number is 571-272-7083. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:30AM-6:00PM. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached at 571-272-7087.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EJ.

E.G. (

December 17, 2007



DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 360